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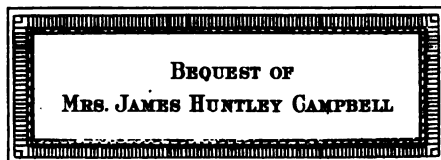
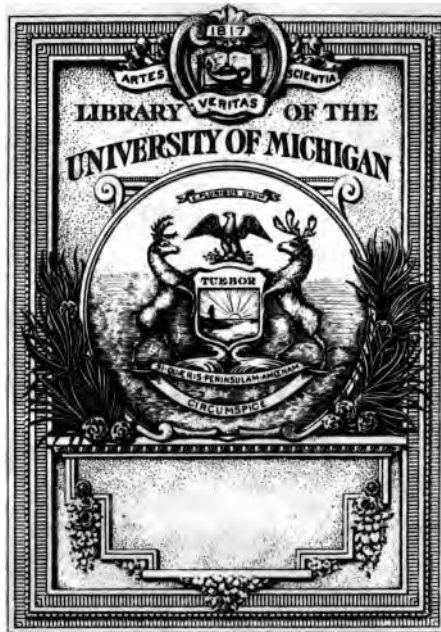
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# Our Nation's Flag





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Gift of the Compiler Mrs. Van  
to Mr. James H. Campbell.



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1917

# OUR NATION'S FLAG

FROM THE STANDARD OF SPAIN IN  
1492 UP TO THE FLAG OF 48 STARS  
IN 1917, ALSO LAWS AND USAGES  
OF THE AMERICAN STANDARD



ARRANGED BY  
(MRS. FRANK L. VANCE)  
AND  
J. S. BLETCHER

THIRD EDITION

MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN  
1917



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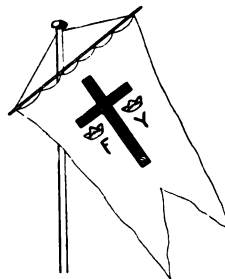
# OUR NATION'S FLAG

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## European Flags in America



The Standard of Spain in 1492



The Banner of Columbus

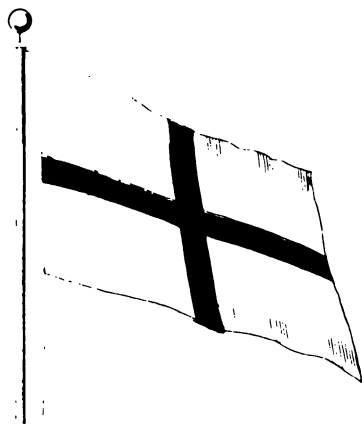
The first European flags which we definitely know were displayed on American soil were those borne by Columbus when he landed, October 12, 1492. They were two in number—the standard of Spain and the banner of the expedition.

The standard of Spain showed golden castles on red fields for Castile; and red lions on white fields, for Leon.

The white banner of the expedition bore a green cross to represent Christianity, green being the color of hope. The F. and Y. surmounted by crowns were for Ferdinand and Isabella, the king and queen of Spain.



## European Flags in America



St. George's Flag



The King's Colors

In the years following the first voyage of Columbus, many expeditions of discovery brought other flags, banners, and standards to our coast; Spanish, French, Portugese, Venetian, Dutch and English. The flags of only one of these nations, however, deserve a place in a history of our national banner,—the flags of England, which for one hundred and seventy years, a far longer span than our nation has yet attained, were the flags of America as well as of England.

The two flags on this page were the ones in general use in the English colonies. The first one,—“St. George's cross”—with its red cross on a white field, floated from the mast of the little Mayflower, when it bore its “band of exiles” to the “wild New England shore.” The “king's colors,” or “Union Jack”—the red St. George's cross and the white St. Andrew's on a blue field, which, adopted in 1606, is still in a slightly changed form the color of the ruler of Great Britian, was displayed by all British ships of war visiting the colonies, and floated over all forts and other crown possessions from New Hampshire to Georgia.

After 1707 the “meteor flag of England,” a red ensign with the “union” in the upper and inner corner, was the official flag of Great Britian and all her colonies; but it was never so closely associated with our history as were the two first described.

## The Pine-Tree Flag of the New England Colonies



As the descendants of the early English colonists grew in number and independence, and as a certain distinctive American character developed among them, a restiveness under the use of the king's colors began to manifest itself, especially in the New England colonies, and with it a desire to employ a flag that should incorporate in its folds some emblem of the American nationality. The archives of the New England courts contain many curious instances of acts of disrespect toward the British flag, instances which are interesting as showing the growth of a spirit of independence and nationality.

The United Colonies of New England adopted, in 1686, a common flag,—a red flag with St. George's cross in the white canton and a pine-tree in its upper and inner division, indicating that the colonies claimed the right to a certain individuality in their emblem, while still an English colony.

The flag was never officially authorized and was not universally employed; but it served to strengthen in the minds of all who saw it the idea that, since New England had her own flag, she was in some ways independent of the mother country.

We can not know what was the "flag to April's breeze unfurled," when the embattled farmers at Concord "fired the shot heard around the world." It may have been the pine-tree emblem, the same that assuredly was used at Bunker Hill.

## A Group of Colonial Flags



Besides the pine-tree flag of the United Colonies of New England, we find various other pine-tree emblems. One favorite flag was of white with a green pine-tree in the center and the words "An Appeal to Heaven" at the top. The flag of thirteen red and white stripes was in general use. The rattlesnake emblem in various forms was exceedingly popular among the colonists. The snake was always represented with thirteen rattles and the flag bore the motto, "Don't Tread on Me." On the 8th of February, 1776, Colonel Gadsden presented to Congress "an elegant standard,—such as is to be used by the commander-in-chief of the American navy; being a yellow flag with a representation of a rattlesnake coiled for attack." The blue flag with a white crescent in the upper left corner and the word "Liberty" emblazoned upon it in white letters has an interesting history. It was mounted on a bastion of Fort Sullivan (or Fort Moultrie, as it was afterwards called), and fell outside the fort during the British attack, June 28, 1776. Sergeant Jasper leaped the parapet, seized the flag, fastened it to a strong staff, and in the face of the whole British fleet and amid a hail of bullets fixed it once more firmly upon the bastion.

## Other Colonial Flags



The liberty cap has been from earliest times the symbol of freedom from oppression. When the Romans freed a slave the ceremony consisted in putting a small red flag on his head. Very early in the struggle against England the liberty cap became a common emblem. Often it was crossed by a sword on banners. Among other rattlesnake flags was one of red and blue bars with the snake stretched across and the motto, "Don't Tread on Me." Another favorite flag was of white with blue bands, top and bottom, a pine tree in the center, and the inscription, "Liberty Tree," and "An Appeal to God."

## The Grand Union Flag of the United Colonies of America

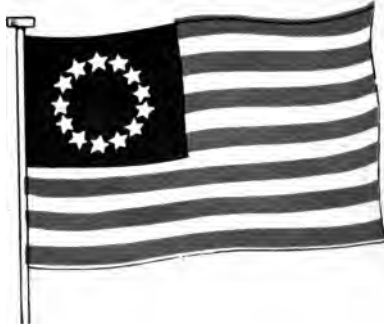


Washington was appointed "commander-in-chief of all the armed forces to be raised in defense of American liberty," and in July, 1775, when the Continental Army composed of troops from all the different colonies gathered in his camp before Boston, it became evident that a flag was needed that would fitly represent all the colonies and the cause of their struggle against tyranny.

Accordingly, the Continental Congress appointed a committee composed of Benjamin Franklin, Benjamin Harrison and Mr. Lynch to confer with General Washington and recommend a colonial flag that should be national. The new banner was first unfurled by Washington, on September 3, 1776, under the Great Elm at Cambridge. It received a name that was fitting to the occasion.

The flag fitly represented the situation of affairs. It consisted of thirteen horizontal stripes, alternately red and white, to symbolize the thirteen colonies. In the canton, the crosses of St. George and St. Andrew were combined in a field. This "union" in the canton showed that the colonies acknowledged allegiance to Great Britain, while united in a determination to secure their rights.

## The Star Spangled Banner



On the 2d of July, 1776, Congress resolved, "That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent states; and that all political connection between them and the state of Great Britain is, and ought to be totally dissolved." On the 4th of July, the Declaration of Independence was adopted by Congress. After such a declaration, it would be manifestly absurd to display longer the thirteen stripes with the king's colors.

It is said that in the latter part of May, 1776, Washington, accompanied by Robert Morris and Colonel George Ross, a member of Congress, called upon Mrs. Betsy Ross, a niece of Colonel Ross; that Washington showed her a plan he had sketched for a flag with thirteen stripes and a blue field dotted with stars; and that he engaged her, then and there, to make the first "Star Spangled Banner." It is also asserted by many students of the history of our flag, that this banner, made by Betsy Ross on Arch street, Philadelphia, was soon in general use in the army. Some historians assert that Washington carried this starry flag when on Christmas eve, in 1776, he crossed the Delaware through ice and blinding sleet, surprised and captured a Hessian army, and turned the fortunes of the war.

Of this we can not be quite sure. Certainly it was not till June 14, 1777, that Congress officially resolved, "That the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation."

A month previous to this date, however, Congress had sent Betsy Ross an order on the treasury for £14, 12s, 2d for flags for the fleet in Delaware river, a fact which would seem to prove that in June, 1777, Congress was only officially acknowledging a flag already in general use.

Such was the birth of our glorious Star Spangled Banner; first officially displayed at the military post of Fort Mifflin, near Philadelphia, N. Y.; first flown on the seas at the masthead of the Ranger, Captain John Paul Jones, whose naval victories were to make it respected everywhere; first saluted by a foreign power in Quiberon Bay, France, February 14, 1778, by the guns of the flagship of the French admiral, La Molte.

## The Flag of Fifteen Stripes



In 1794, after the admission of Vermont to the Union in 1791, and of Kentucky in 1792, Congress passed,

“An Act making alterations in the Flag of the United States. Be it enacted, etc., That from and after the first day of May, one thousand seven hundred and ninety-five, the flag of the United States be fifteen strips, alternate red and white, and that the union be fifteen stars, white in a blue field.”

This flag, with its fifteen strips and fifteen stars, was the national emblem for twenty-three years. It was carried by Commodore Perry on Lake Erie; it floated over New Orleans when the British were repulsed from a “cotton fort;” torn with shot and shells, it inspired Francis Scott Key to write the “Star Spangled Banner.”

## Some Forms Our Banner Has Borne



Tennessee was admitted to the Union in 1796, Ohio in 1802, Louisiana in 1812, Indiana in 1816, Mississippi in 1817, and Illinois in 1818. The original thirteen states had grown to twenty and it was evident that many more would enter the Union with the passing years. It became plain that Congress must permanently define the national flag, providing at once and forever for such changes as the country's destiny must inevitably bring about. A committee with Hon. Peter Wendover of New York as chairman was adopted to prepare and report an adequate measure. This measure was passed by Congress and went on the statute books, where it has remained unchanged till today, establishing the flag as our grandfathers knew it and as we know it. Passed in April, 1818, it reads as follows:

"An act to establish the flag of the United States.

"Section 1. Be it enacted, etc., That from and after the fourth day of July next, the flag of the United States be thirteen horizontal stripes, alternate red and white; that the Union have twenty stars, white in the blue field.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That on the admission of every new state into the Union, one star be added to the union of the flag, and that such addition shall take effect on the fourth of July next succeeding such admission. Approved April 4, 1818."

Thus the only changes that have been made in the national flag since 1818 have been in the addition of new stars. Today there are forty-eight stars in the Star Spangled Banner.



## Our Flag Yesterday, Today and Forever



The Star-Spangled Banner in 1917  
It has forty-eight Stars

h is the history of our flag, at once the symbol and the inspiration  
patriotism. It will remain unchanged amid the changes of our  
r, save that the constellation of stars will grow greater as new  
ign states are given that high privilege, to "carry the Flag and  
tep to the music of the Union."

sea and on land it thrills with pride the heart of every true Amer-  
It is the prophet, the historian of our destiny. It recalls the  
is achievements of John Paul Jones and Commodore Perry, of  
al Farragut and of Admiral Dewey; it led on to victory Washing-  
d Greene and Scott and Taylor and Grant and Miles and Shafter.  
rs shine bright in our western heavens, and lead forth the morn-  
the far Orient.

## The Star Spangled Banner



O, say, can you see by the dawn's early light  
What so proudly we halled at the twilight's last gleaming,  
Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight,  
O'er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming;  
And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air,  
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there!  
Oh, say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

On that shore, dimly seen through the mist of the deep,  
Where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes,  
What is that which the breeze o'er the towering steep,  
As it fitfully blows, now conceals, now discloses?  
Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam  
In full glory reflects now shines on the stream.  
'Tis the star-spangled banner, oh, long may it wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

And where is that foe which so vauntingly swore,  
That the havoc of war and the battle's confusion,  
A home and a country should leave us no more?  
Their blood has washed out their foul footsteps' pollution;  
No refuge could save the hireling and slave  
From the terror or flight or the gloom of the grave,  
And the star-spangled banner in triumph doth wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

Oh, thus be it ever, when freemen shall stand,  
Between their loved homes and the war's desolation:  
Blest with vict'ry and peace, may the heaven-rescued land  
Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation.  
Then conquer we must when our cause it is just,  
And this be our motto, "In God is our trust;"  
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

—Francis Scott Key, 1814.

## Origin of the Symbols of Our Flag



George Washington's Coat of Arms and Book-Plate

It is believed that the coat of arms of the Washington family suggested the colors and the symbols of our flag.

The earliest known use of this coat of arms was in 1532 by Lawrence Washington, mayor of Northampton, England. At the old church at Brington, England, the tombs of Washington's ancestors are marked by memorial plates of brass, showing the arms of the family, a shield bearing three stars with bars below.

When Sir John Washington, George Washington's great grandfather, came to this country in 1657, he brought with him the family coat of arms. Sir John settled in Virginia and founded the American line of Washingtons. Later George Washington had the arms emblazoned on his carriage and employed the same emblem on his seals and his book-plate. The accompanying illustration shows plainly how probable it is that the designers of our flag took their idea from the shield of the Father of his Country.

## The Author of the Star-Spangled Banner

Francis Scott Key, the author of the Star-Spangled Banner, was born in Maryland in 1779 and died in 1843.

During the war of 1812-1815, between the United States and Great Britain, the English fleet bombarded Fort McHenry, near Baltimore, on September 13, 1814. Key, who was confined that night on the ship of the British Admiral Cockburn, witnessed with an anxious heart the British bombardment of the fort; early on the following morning he looked across to the fort and saw with delight "that our flag was still there." It is said that he wrote immediately the first draft of the poem on the back of an envelope.

The flag that waved over Fort McHenry is still preserved, and in 1876 was shown at the Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia, full of rents made by the enemy's cannonade.

### FLAGS OF OUR FOREIGN POSSESSIONS.



Porto Rico



Hawaii

Porto Rico flew the flag of Spain until 1898, when she chose a flag whose design is that of Cuba with the colors interchanged. Thus it is composed of five horizontal stripes of red and white. At the head of the flag is a blue half diamond bearing a silver star.

The eight stripes of the Hawaiiin flag represent the eight islands of Hawaii, Maui, Kahsolawe, Lawai, Molokai, Oahu, Nihau, and Kanai. In the corner is the British Union Jack, which was given to the king of the islands to be used as his colors by the explorer Vancouver in 1793. The flags of both Porto Rico and Hawaii will doubtless be retained as territorial banners.

### FLAG DAY.

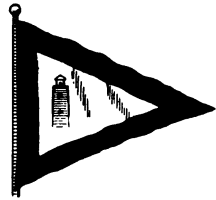
The Colonial Dames of America suggested, some time since, that since the flag of the United States was established on June 14, 1777, that day should be observed as Flag Day, and that every home in the country should display the national ensign to commemorate the choice of our national banner. Flag Day was first observed in 1893. Each year since that date it has been more generally celebrated, especially in the public schools, where it is becoming customary to take the "oath of allegiance to the flag" upon that day.

## The Flag in the Navy

There are some special flags that deserve notice. The ships of our navy fly the national ensign and also the "Jack," which is only the union of the flag,—white stars on a blue field. Somewhat recently special flags have been designed for the Secretary of War, and the Secretary of the Navy. The flag of the light-house service is a triangular, a white field bordered with red, bearing a representation of a light-house.

The Revenue Marine flag is more than one hundred years old. According to the Act of Congress of March 2, 1799, it "consists of sixteen perpendicular stripes, alternate red and white, the union of the ensign being the arms of the United States in dark blue on a white field." This flag is the only one having sixteen stripes, that being the number of states when it was adopted. Side by side with the Revenue Marine flag, one sees in almost every American port the yacht ensign of the United States. This floats from all American yachts, at home or abroad.

### Some Special Flags



Light House Flag



U. S. Revenue Flag

On board an American ship of war the flag is hoisted at 8 o'clock in the morning and, if the weather permits, it is kept flying until sunset. When it is to be hoisted, the band gives three rolls and three flourishes. At the third roll the ensign is started from the deck, lifting slowly while the band plays "Star Spangled Banner." All officers and men during this ceremony stand facing the ensign, and salute it when it reaches the peak. A similar form is observed at sunset, the band playing "Hail Columbia" while the ensign is descending, and the officers and men saluting it when it touches the deck.

A ship in distress hoists its flag with the union down. A flag is hoisted at halfmast as a sign of mourning.

### SOME SPECIAL EMBLEMS.

A white flag is everywhere employed as a flag of truce. It is an interesting fact that no ship or army ever carries a white flag, which is, therefore, always extemporized in case of need. A yellow flag is a sign that the sick or wounded are sheltered beneath it; a white flag bearing a red cross is the emblem of the Red Cross association for the care of the wounded, and it is respected by all civilized nations. The red flag is regarded as the special emblem of anarchists; the black flag, with or without the cross-bones and skull has from time immemorial been the badge of piracy.

## The Etiquette of the Flag



After a victory by the Army or Navy, the flag should be displayed.

When the flag becomes old or soiled from use, it should be decently burned.

The statutes of the United States forbid the use of the flag in registered trade-marks.

The national salute is one gun for every state. The international salute is under the law of nations, twenty-one guns.

In handling the flag it should not be allowed to touch the ground, and never allowed to lie upon the ground as means of decoration—nor should it be laid flat with anything placed upon it.

When the flag is flown at half staff as a sign of mourning it should be hoisted to full staff at the conclusion of the funeral. In placing the flag at half staff, it should first be hoisted to the top of the staff and then lowered to position.

Whenever our flag and any other are hoisted on the same staff, the Star Spangled Banner must float from the top. In the heart of every American citizen the American flag must have the first and highest place—must be supreme.

The military ceremony observed to show proper respect for the American flag requires that the flag shall not be hoisted before sunrise, nor be allowed to remain up after sunset. At “retreat,” at sunset, civilian spectators should stand at “attention” during the playing of “The Star Spangled Banner.” Military spectators are required by regulation to stand at “attention” and give the military salute. During the playing of the national hymn at “retreat” the flag should be lowered, but not then allowed to touch the ground. When the flag is passing in parade or in review the spectators should, if walking, halt, and, if sitting, arise and stand at “attention.”

The Flag should never be placed below a person sitting.

When two American flags are crossed the blue fields should face each other.

When the Flag is placed over a casket, the starry field should be at the head.

In crossing the American Flag with that of another nation the American Colors should be at the right.

Always stand when the "Star Spangled Banner" is being played, excepting when played in a medley.

Old government flags are sent by the Quartermaster's Department to Philadelphia, where they are shredded.

The only time when the Flag is kept flying through the night at an army Post is when a battle is in progress.

Army regulations prescribe—When the flag is displayed from a staff the blue field should be in the upper corner next to the staff.

From private flag poles, the war secretary advises us, the flag may fly at all hours, day and night, with due respect to the colors.

In draping the flag against the side of a room or building, the proper position for the blue field is toward the north or toward the east.

There are three standard sizes for the flag provided by the War Department regulations: Garrison flag, 38x20 feet; Post flag, 19x10 feet, and Storm flag, 9½x5 feet.

When buildings are decorated in bunting draped horizontally, the red should be at the top, followed by white, then blue in accordance with the colors of the National Flag.

If a foreigner wishes to raise the flag of his nationality in this country he must raise the flag of the United States above it, not below it. If for decoration, the Stars and Stripes must be at the right.

Custom decrees—When the Flag is shown **horizontally** the blue field should be at the upper corner to the left of the person facing the Flag, when **vertically** the blue field should be at the upper corner to the right of a person facing the flag.

If you hang the flag from a window it should be suspended by the same edge which is ordinarily attached to the pole, and if two flags are hung together cantons should be placed together. If the flag is draped across the street the blue canton should be up.

In decorating, the flag should never be festooned or draped; always hung flat.

The flag should never be worn as the whole or part of a costume. As a badge it should be worn over the left breast.

When the national flag and another flag fly from the same pole there should be double halyards, one for each flag.

When carried in parade or when crossed with other flags, the "Stars and Stripes" should always be at the right.

The flag contains thirteen stripes, alternate red and white, representing the thirteen original states, and a star for each state in the Union.

As an altar covering, the Union should be at the right as you face the altar and nothing should be placed upon the flag except the Holy Bible.

When the flag is used in unveiling a statue or monument, it should not be allowed to fall to the ground, but should be carried aloft to wave out, forming a distinctive feature during the remainder of the ceremony.

"Hail Columbia" was sung at the ceremony of lowering the flag at sunset, until 1904, when Secretary Moody ordered that the "Star Spangled Banner" be substituted.

The American flag, the emblem of our Country, is the third oldest national flag in the world. It represents liberty, and liberty means obedience to law.

The arrangement of the stars on the flag is regulated by law and executive order. An executive order, issued Oct. 26, 1912, provided for forty-eight stars to be arranged in six horizontal rows of eight stars each.

General Washington once described the flag by saying: "We take the star from heaven, the red from the Mother Country, separating it by white stripes, thus showing that we have separated from her, and the white stripes shall go down to posterity representing 'Liberty.'"

The **field** of the flag is the stripes, the **union** is the blue and the stars. The colors of the flag are **red**, representing valor, **white**, representing hope, purity and truth, **blue**, representing loyalty, sincerity and justice, and its **stars** represent high aspirations and federal union. The flag is known as "Old Glory," "Stars & Stripes," "Star Spangled Banner," and the "Red, White and Blue."





